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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	China	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Living Conditions in the Swatow Area	DATE DISTR.	25 January 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. [ ] an influx of people into Swatow because of depressed conditions in the countryside caused a housing shortage and an increase in rents in the city.<sup>1</sup> 25X1
2. Farm loans, once made available to peasants by the government, were no longer being issued. Farm cooperatives, which once loaned seeds and fertilizer, were now concerned principally with the control of prices on farm produce. Some of the peasants sold land granted them under the land reform program without any intervention from the government to stop these sales. The usual price for the land was JMP 800,000 per mou (3965).
3. Prices fluctuated considerably in Swatow and there were frequent shortages of basic essentials. [ ] laundry soap was almost unavailable; peanut oil, which had also been unavailable, was placed under state control;<sup>2</sup> rice sold for JMP 120,000 per picul; pork sold for JMP 18,000 per catty; fish sold for JMP 20,000 per catty. Cloth and clothing were generally expensive. Black market dealings in goods were more or less an open secret. 25X1

## Comments

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1. [ ] the population of Swatow had fallen to less than 200,000 from 250,000 since the Communists regime came to power due mainly to a depressed economy in the area, and that many people had volunteered to join labor battalions rather than be faced with unemployment.
2. [ ] peanut oil was almost unobtainable throughout China, and people were forced to depend on less palatable edible oils. ILLEGIB

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